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SIDLIT 2017 Presentation by Jonathan Bacon

Troubling Report Finds Millions Of Americans Forced To Make Ends Meet By Getting Up And Going To Work Every Day




What's the Problem?

“The fictions and fabrications that comprise fake news are but a subset of the larger *bad news* phenomenon, which also encompasses many forms of shoddy, unresearched, error-filled, and deliberately misleading reporting that do a disservice to everyone....”

A stack of newspapers is shown, with the top one featuring large blue and white letters spelling 'NEWS'. A silver pen lies horizontally across the bottom of the stack. The background is a light yellow gradient.

from “We Have a Bad News Problem, Not a Fake News Problem” by David Mikkelson, Snopes.com founder

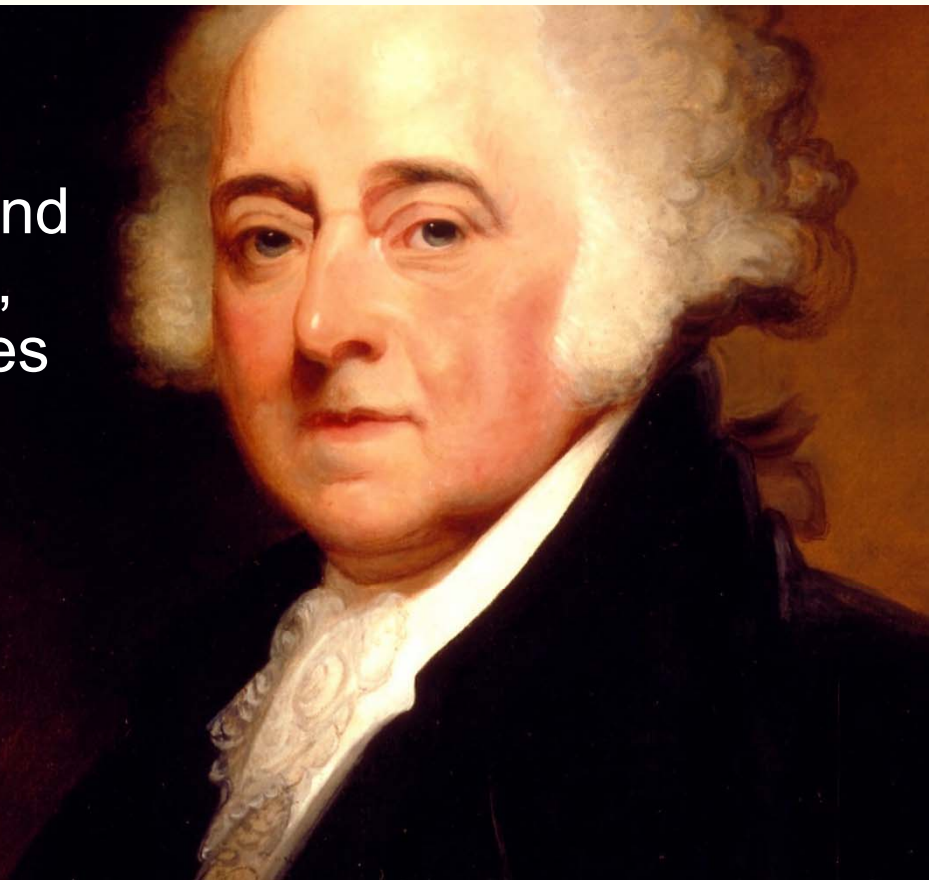



A FACT: IS A STATEMENT THAT IS
TRUE **AND** CAN BE VERIFIED OBJECTIVELY, OR
PROVEN. IN OTHER WORDS, A **FACT** IS
TRUE **AND** CORRECT NO MATTER WHAT.

What's the Problem?

“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

John Adams





An OPINION: HOWEVER, IS A STATEMENT THAT HOLDS AN ELEMENT OF BELIEF; IT TELLS HOW SOMEONE FEELS. AN **OPINION** IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE **AND** CANNOT BE PROVEN. OPINIONS OFTEN INCLUDE BIASED WORDS (BEAUTIFUL, MISERABLE, EXCITING, FRIGHTFUL)

Source: Study.com and Broward College, College Readiness Course, see <https://goo.gl/IdF8cg>.

Facebook post interface showing a video of a man harvesting tomatoes and potatoes from a plant called "TomTato".

Image source: hompson & Morgan TV/youtube

There's a plant called the "TomTato" which is a cherry tomato plant with potatoes as roots. It yields large quantities of both tomatoes and spuds.

Creepy Facts.
Like This Page · July 29 ·

Like · Comment · Share

679 · Top Comments

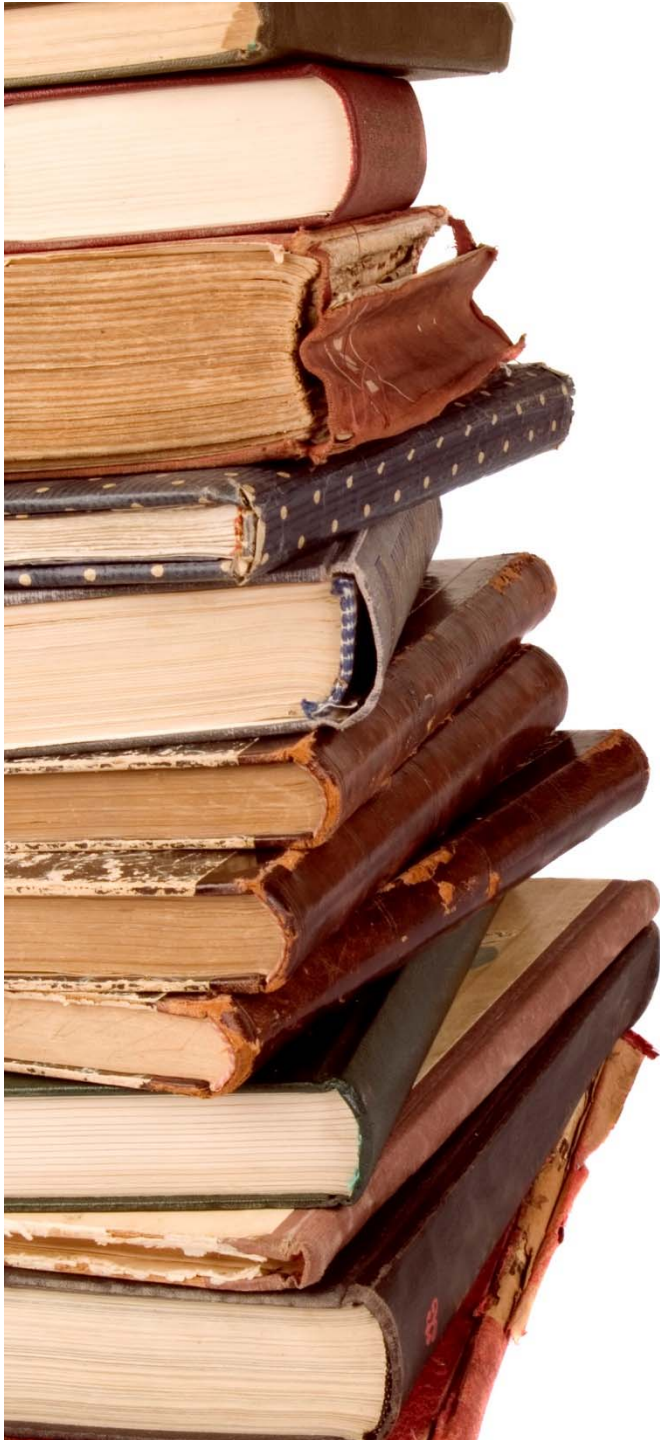
216 shares · 34 Comments

Jody Sopko I'm not buying it
Like · Reply · July 30 at 12:32am
11 Replies

Adrian Lee From what I've read, tomatoes and potatoes and capsicum pepper cultivars are interchangeable. Basically anything in the nightshade family will work.
Like · Reply · July 30 at 5:47pm
1 Reply

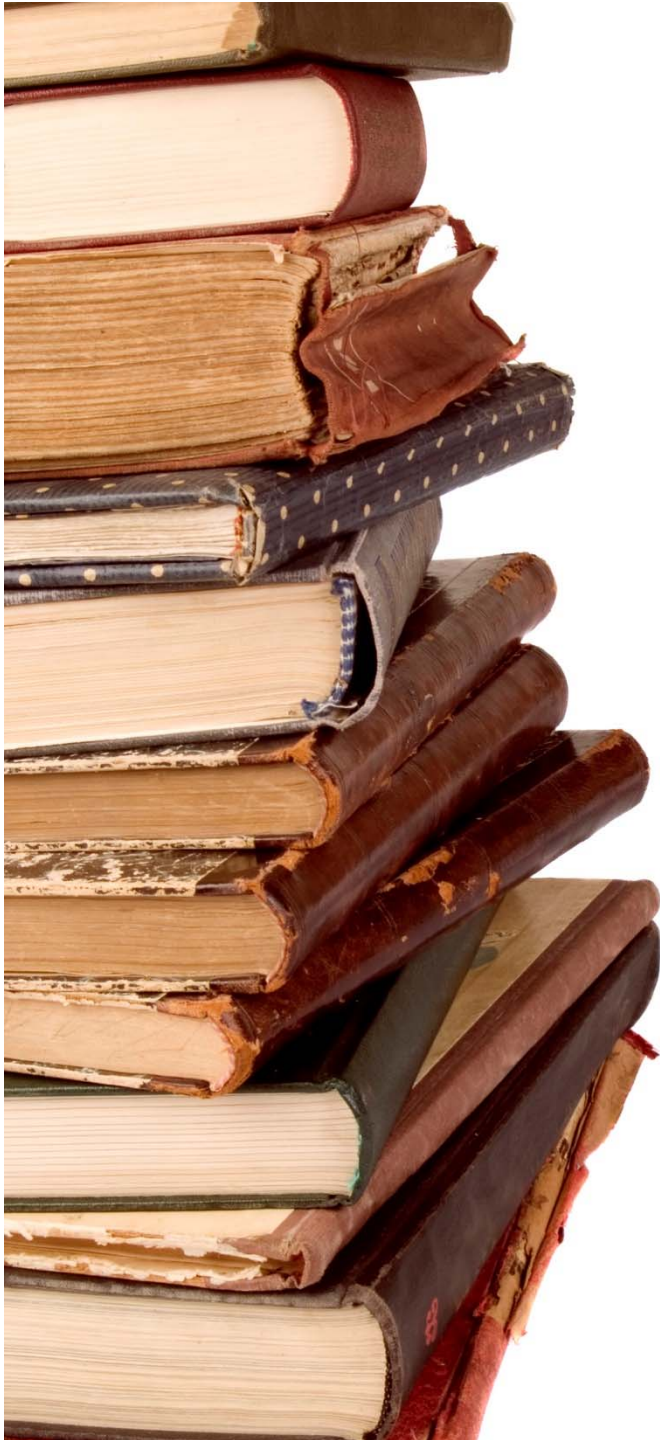
Write a comment...

True! Also called Pomato, see wikipedia.org, Modernfarmer.com, Businessinsider.com, Telegraph.co.uk, BBC.com and more



“Do some investigating. Research the factual claims in the story to see if there is published evidence to support or contradict them. Challenge the teller of the tale to produce evidence that what they've told you is true. The burden of proof is on them. “

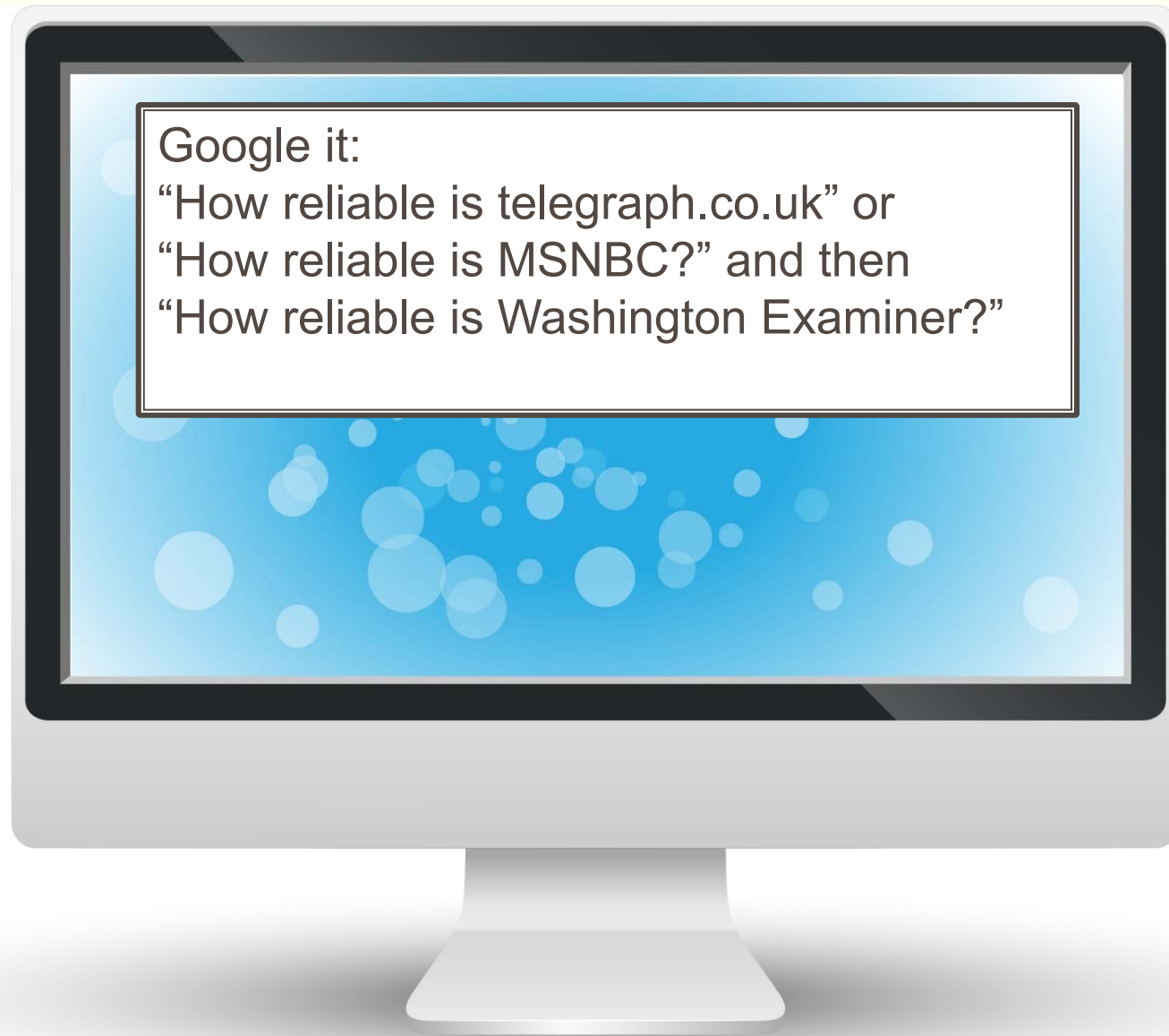
Thoughtco.com from “Eight Ways to Spot an Urban Legend.”

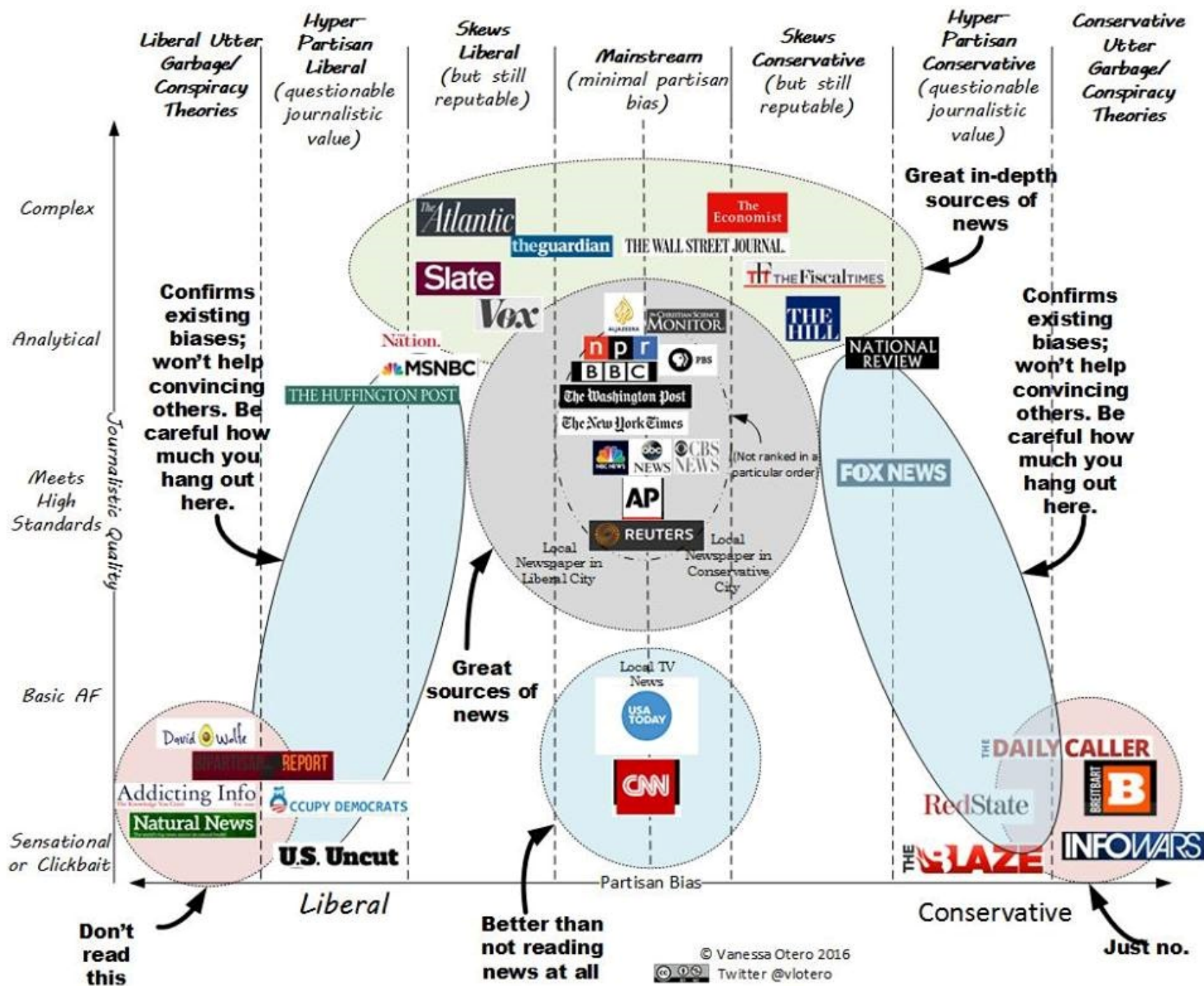


Check sources, if a post or article makes claims based on a specific source:

- Check to be sure the source says what is claimed.
- Check the affiliation of the source.
- Check the credentials of the “authority.”
- Have the results been replicated?
- Are other news outlets or sources reporting the “news?”

When sites or publications are cited, check them out...





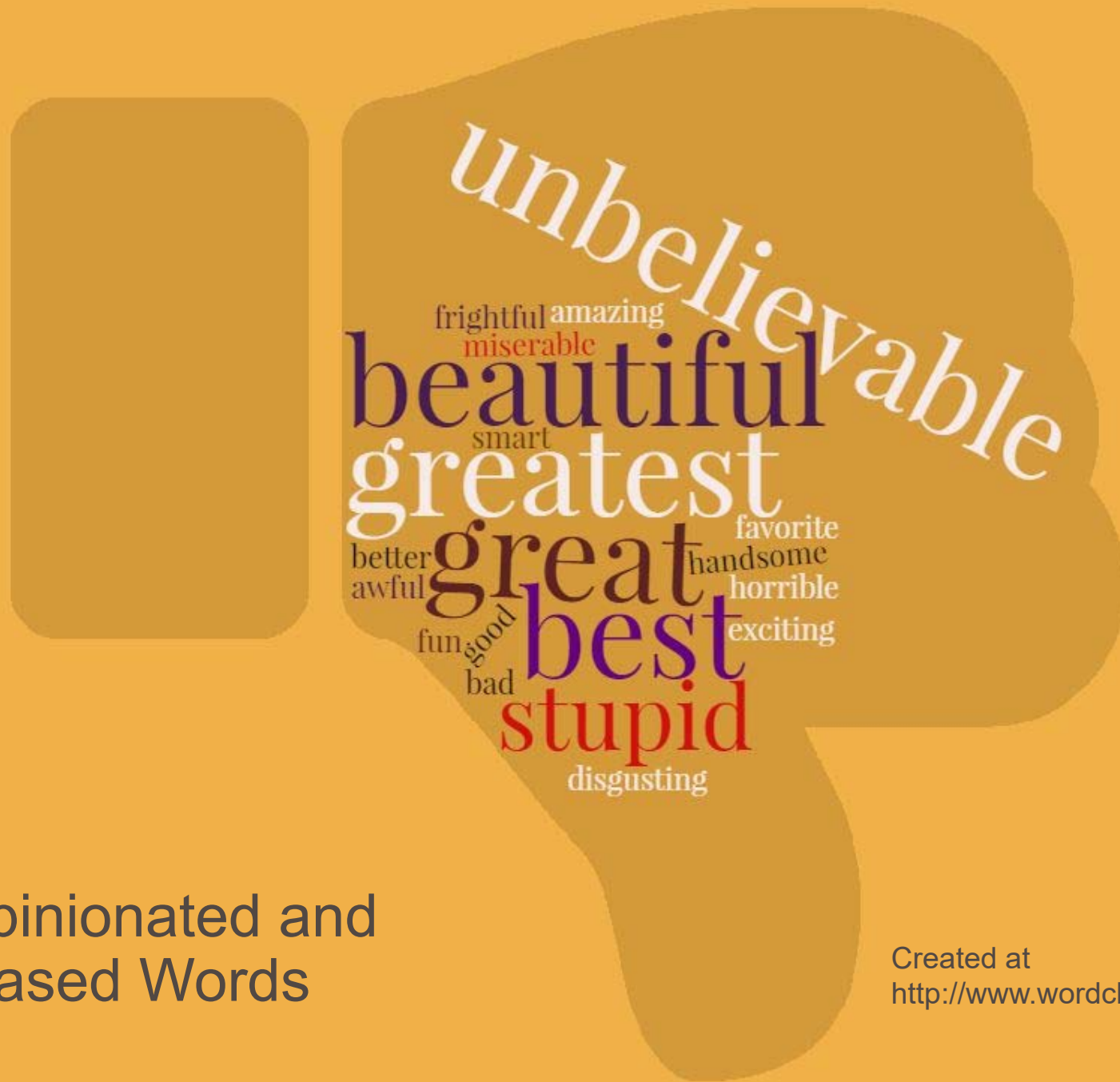
How to Prove a Fact

To test whether a statement is a fact, ask these three questions:

- Can the statement be proved or demonstrated to be true?
- Can the statement be observed in practice or operation?
- Can the statement be verified by witnesses, manuscripts, or documents?

Source: Broward College, College Readiness Course, see <https://goo.gl/IdF8cg>.

Fact	Opinion
Is objective	Is subjective
Is discovered	Is Created
States reality	Interprets reality
Can be verified	Cannot be verified
Presented with unbiased words	Presented using biased words



Opinionated and
Biased Words

Created at
<http://www.wordclouds.com/>

Watch out for Qualifiers!

all
always
appear
believe
could
every
has/have to
I feel
it is believed
likely
may
might
must
never

often
ought to
possibly
probably
seem
should
only
sometimes
think
usually



“The book is always better than the film adaption.”

It is believed that Vice President Pence was involved in a secret meeting that resulted in Comey’s firing.

"The founding fathers, in their genius, created a system of three co-equal branches of government and a built-in system of checks and balances," Clapper said on *State of the Union*.* “I feel as though that is under assault and is eroding.” – James Clapper



“The book is **always** better than the film adaption.”

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Critical Thinking: What Is It?

"Disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence"

Dictionary.com and Linda Elder, September, 2007, coauthor, *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools*, Foundation for Critical Thinking Press, 2008).

Logical Fallacies

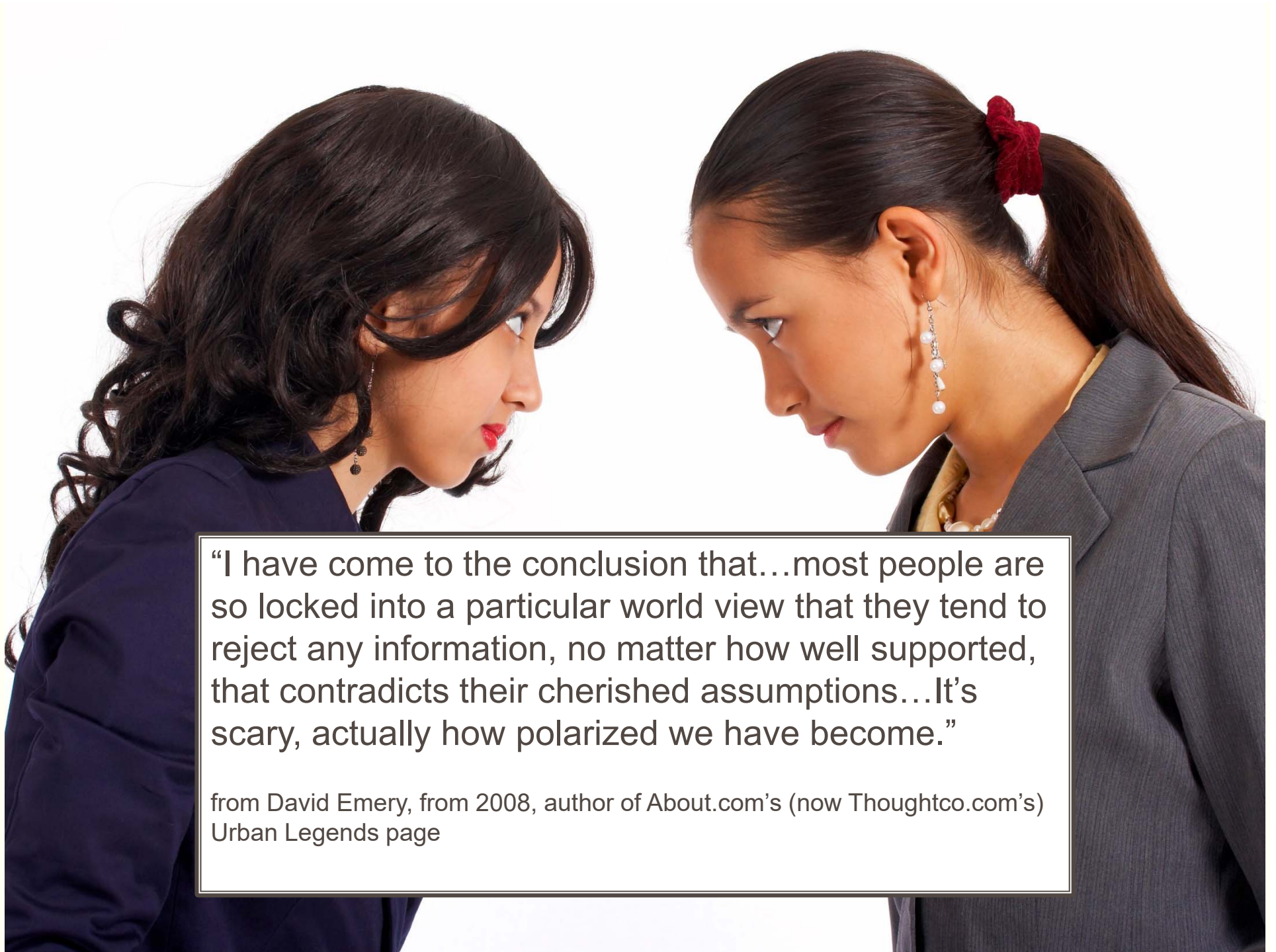
- Common errors in reasoning
- Undermine logic of your argument.
- Can be either illegitimate arguments or irrelevant points
- Often identified by lack of evidence that supports the claim.



Logical Fallacies

- Slippery Slope
- Hasty Generalization
- Moral Equivalence
- Post hoc ergo propter hoc
- Genetic Fallacy
- Begging the Claim
- Circular Argument
- Either/Or
- Ad hominem
- Ad populum
- Red Herring
- Straw Man





“I have come to the conclusion that...most people are so locked into a particular world view that they tend to reject any information, no matter how well supported, that contradicts their cherished assumptions...It's scary, actually how polarized we have become.”

from David Emery, from 2008, author of About.com's (now Thoughtco.com's) Urban Legends page

Philosophical “Spectrum of Change”

What is meant by terms like conservative, liberal, moderate...

REVOLUTIONARY:

finds little to preserve, wants radical change, “start all over”

LIBERAL: searches for consistent change, optimistic that forward movement is positive and brings progress

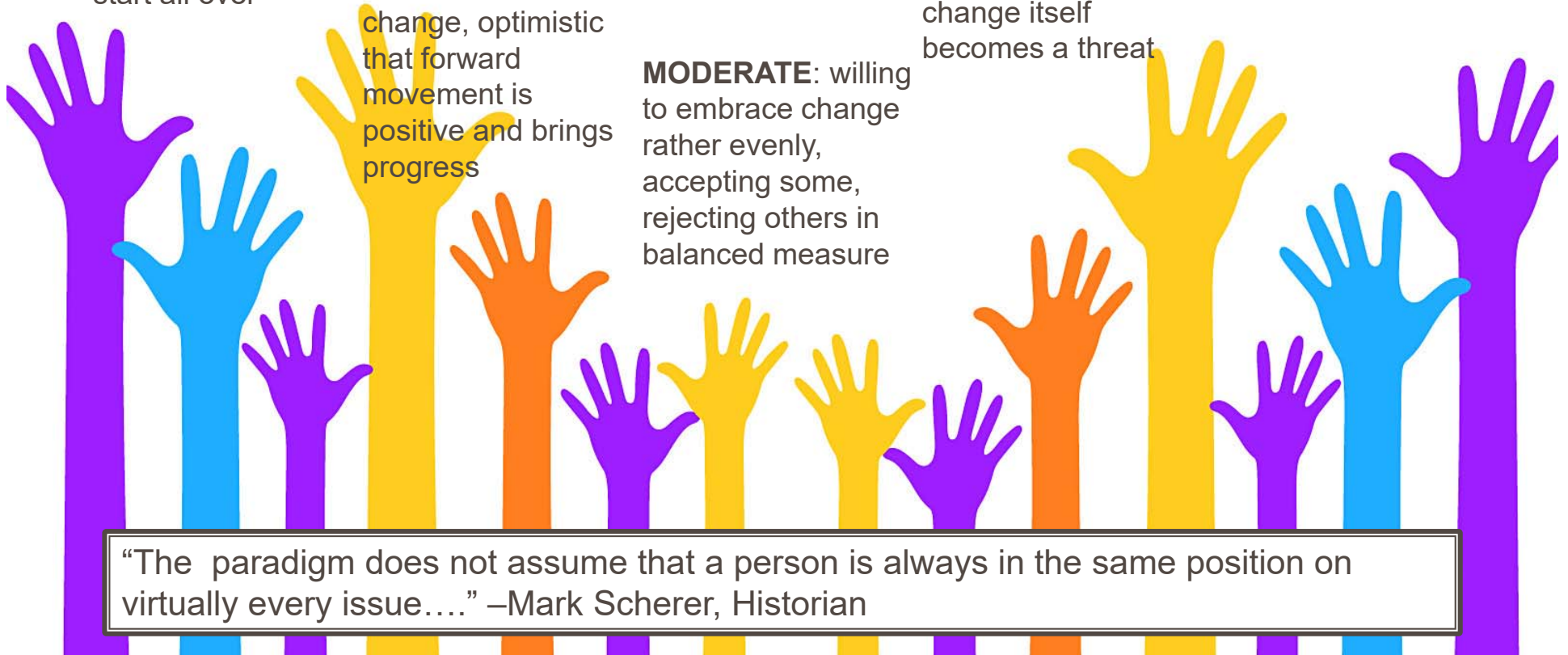
MODERATE: willing to embrace change rather evenly, accepting some, rejecting others in balanced measure

CONSERVATIVE:

change only makes things worse, thus change itself becomes a threat

REACTIONARY:

wants change, “turn back the clock” to the way things were in an earlier time or era



“The paradigm does not assume that a person is always in the same position on virtually every issue....” –Mark Scherer, Historian



What's the Problem?

If people have deeply held views, they're unlikely to change.

Compounded by...

59% of readers share without reading.

* From a study by computer scientists at Columbia University and the French National Institute.



Why Doesn't America Read Anymore?

In an age of readily available information and countless ways to get it, we seem to be losing touch with our powers of comprehension.

WWW.NPR.ORG

4.7K Reactions 360 Comments 295 Shares

 Like  Comment  Share

   4.7K

Most Recent ▾

295 shares



Write a comment...



Jacquie Nevels I still read books. I love the smell and feel of turning the page

Like · Reply ·  11 · June 26, 2016 at 1:54pm



Lana Collins Gross Me too!! 😊

Like · Reply · June 26, 2016 at 2:21pm

Would you believe:

- 360 Comments
- 295 Shares

April 1, 2014 NPR Post

Marijuana Contains "Alien DNA" From Outside Of Our Solar System, NASA Confirms

166.8K
SHARES



Share on Facebook



Share on Twitter



From IFLScience.com

EDITOR'S BLOG

What's the Solution?

“You simply must approach the internet with skepticism. It's chock full of misinformation, and a lot of it shows up in your email inbox.” [and on Facebook]

Leo Notenboom, 18 years
Programmer at Microsoft, author,
blogger and podcaster.



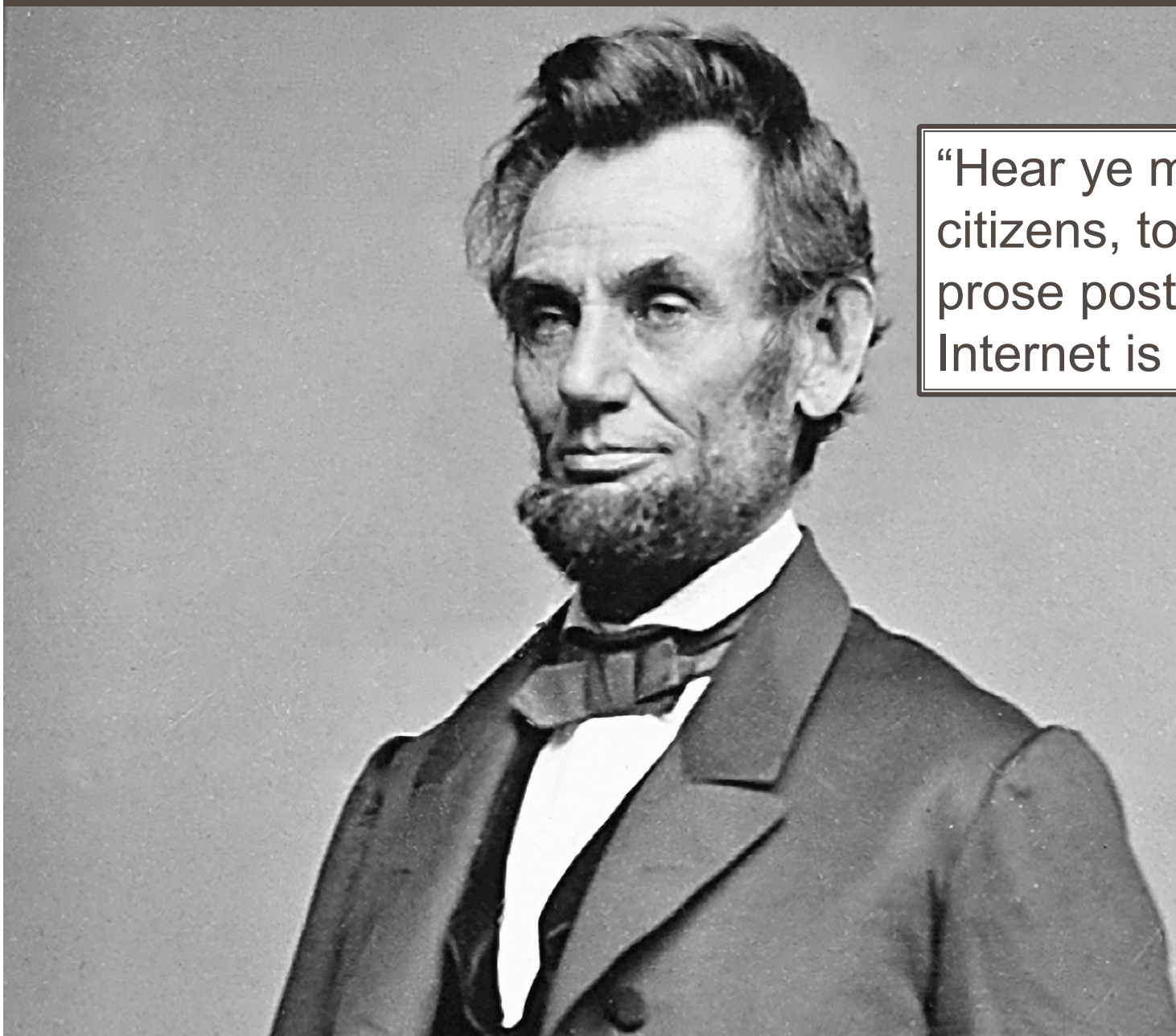
Meme (pronounced Mee-m)

A cultural item that is transmitted by repetition and replication in a manner analogous to the biological transmission of genes.

A cultural item in the form of an image, video, phrase, etc., that is spread via the Internet and often altered in a creative or humorous way.

Dictionary.com





“Hear ye my fellow citizens, to believe all prose posted on the Internet is to court folly.”

What's the Solution?

- Stay skeptical, read and think critically.
- Everything in print is not necessarily true. Too good to be true, it's probably not true.
- Question what you read.
- Evaluate each paragraph or statement, is it fact or opinion.
- Evaluate the author and the source.
- Understand if a natural bias exists (Heritage Foundation vs Occupy Democrats).
- Understand the difference between an informed opinion and an expert opinion (well-informed person vs. expert in their field).

What's the Solution?

- Don't accept simple answers, most issues are complex.
- Beware of news that distracts (click bait) from important issues.
- Messages with warnings of good or dire results if you share/don't share, just delete.
- Beware of generalizations. A study, argument or "fact" that starts with biased words (always, sometimes, never) is opinion, not fact.
- Don't live in an information (Facebook) Bubble, read outside your comfort zone, world view, philosophical spectrum.
- Be aware that a single publication may include news, editorial content, rumor and opinion (not mutually exclusive); e.g. Borowitz Report, New Yorker.

Subscribe for \$1 a week
and get a free tote.

Subscribe



THE
NEW YORKER

Shop Sign in | Link your subscription



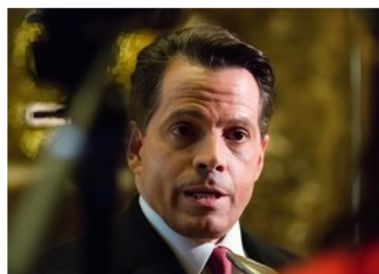
News Culture Books Business & Tech Humor Cartoons Magazine Video Podcasts Archive Goings On **Subscribe**

SATIRE FROM THE BOROWITZ REPORT

Not the news.

COMEDIANS PROTEST ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI'S OUSTER

Industry estimates projected that Scaramucci would generate approximately four billion dollars for the comedy industry this year alone, a windfall that has now been erased.



LENSCRAFTERS

TRUMP SUPPORTERS FURIOUS THAT THEY STILL HAVE HEALTH CARE

"I slept like a baby Thursday night, assuming that when I woke up I wouldn't have health insurance," a Trump voter said. "Instead, this nightmare."

By Andy Borowitz July 28, 2017



Finally: Read, evaluate, carefully consider what you share verbally, on Facebook, email and Twitter.



MIT Researcher: Glyphosate Herbicide will Cause Half of All Children to Have Autism by 2025

1441K

4403

3387

213

740


1157

741K

 Share

 Tweet

 Share

 Share

 Share

 Pinterest

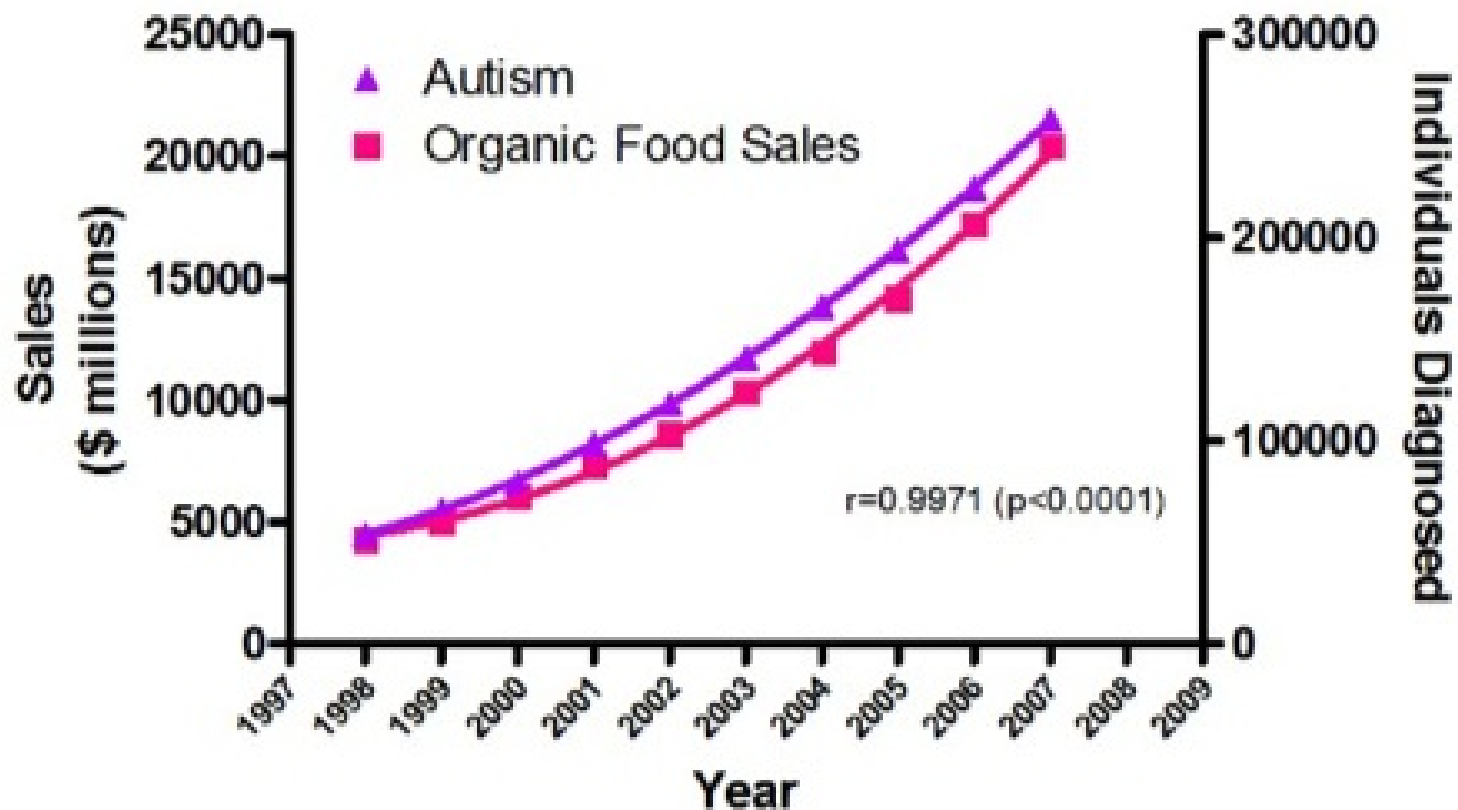
 Like



Half of All Children Will Be Autistic by 2025, Warns Senior Research Scientist at MIT

[First posted December 2014]

The real cause of increasing autism prevalence?



Sources: Organic Trade Association, 2011 Organic Industry Survey; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB# 1820-0043: "Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act"

Indications of Bogusness!

1

Anonymous
author

2

Author
supposedly
famous

3

Quotes
legitimate
source but not
substantiated

4

Message
riddled with
spelling errors

Source: "That Chain E-mail Your Friend Sent to You Is (Likely) Bogus. Seriously." by Lori Robertson, FactCheck.org, posted on March 18, 2008. Also see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm0LwscDYHs>

Indications of Bogusness!

5

Author loves all caps and exclamation points

6

The message argues that it is NOT false

7

There's math involved, "Do the Math!"

8

Do the Facts support the conclusion?

Source: "That Chain E-mail Your Friend Sent to You Is (Likely) Bogus. Seriously." by Lori Robertson, FactCheck.org, posted on March 18, 2008.



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump



Follow

The media has not reported that the National Debt in my first month went down by \$12 billion vs a \$200 billion increase in Obama first mo.

8:19 AM - Feb 25, 2017



50,040



62,365



201,024



- Is it a fair comparison; was the economic setting the same in the two months mentioned?
- Did media outlets report this news?
- Can the decrease in the National Debt be attributed to the new president?
- Are the figures quoted, correct?

Resources to Check

- www.snopes.com - founded by David Mikkelsen in 1994 based on interest in urban legends. Now oldest and largest fact-checking site on web, widely regarded by journalists, folklorists, and laypersons as an essential resource.
- www.factcheck.org/ project of Annenberg Public Policy Center, accepts no funds from corporations, unions, partisan organizations or advocacy groups. Funded by Annenberg grants and individuals with donors of \$1K or more listed on site.
- www.politifact.com/ fact-checking site that rates accuracy of claims by elected officials and others on its Truth-O-Meter.
- goo.gl/JJnPtk Thoughtco.com's Urban Legend's page.
- goo.gl/tEh8TH Facecrooks.com scam alert site reports Facebook related scams.

Fake News Sites (Satire to Seriousness)

- www.callthecops.net Stories: Steven Seagal on short list for new FBI director. Touted as “America’s most trusted source for public safety news”...not!

CALL THE COPS

AMERICA'S 27TH MOST TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Steven Seagal on short list for new FBI director



In the weeks after the FBI director was fired there has been speculation as to who will take over as America's top cop.

[Read More »](#)



Sale of CopBlock uncertain due to buyers blowing all their money on weed.

🕒 June 4, 2017



Steven Seagal on short list for new FBI director

🕒 June 3, 2017

National Donut day adds 1% body fat to NYPD's fittest cop



Officer Michael Counihan started his shift on June 2 like any other. Shift briefing and then heading out to his patrol assignment. Today, however, something different happened at the briefing a table filled with donuts in honor of National Donut day.

[Read More »](#)

<http://www.callthecops.net/>

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- www.callthecops.net Stories: “Steven Seagal on short list for new FBI director.” Touted as “America’s most trusted source for public safety news”...not!
- www.theonion.com Stories: “Leaking sure is cool, huh, guys?’ says disguised John Kelly to White House aides,” and “U.S. forces take control of White House.”

Home Depot Releases New Bluetooth Cordless Hose



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- www.infowars.com Stories: “Millions voted illegally in the 2016 presidential election,” “Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting a hoax,” “Boston Marathon bombing a hoax,” and “Democratic Party hosting child sex slave ring out of pizza restaurant.”



FEATURED STORIES

ALL NEWS



TODAY ON THE ALEX JONES SHOW

Tuesday, August 1: Stocks Soar Under Trump - Stocks continue to jump as Trump delivers on his economic promises. **Dr. Steve Piczenik** will be on today's show to

Fake News Sites (Satire to Seriousness)

- www.callthecops.net Stories: “Steven Seagal on short list for new FBI director.” Touted as “America’s most trusted source for public safety news”...not!
- www.theonion.com Stories: “Leaking sure is cool, huh, guys?” says disguised John Kelly to White House aides,” and “U.S. forces take control of White House.”
- www.infowars.com Stories: “Millions voted illegally in the 2016 presidential election,” “Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting a hoax,” “Boston Marathon bombing a hoax,” and “Democratic Party hosting child sex slave ring out of pizza restaurant.”
- thenewyorkevening.com Stories: “Malia Obama expelled from Harvard,” “Owning a car gives you freedoms the government doesn’t want you to have,” and “Chinese security firm remotely hacks tesla brakes.”



324



324

THE LATEST



BREAKING NEWS

Two American Man Beats Muslim Refugee To Death For Raping 13 Years Old Girl. Do You Support This ?



BREAKING NEWS

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Just Unleashed a BOMBHELL on Fake News Media [VIDEO]



BREAKING NEWS

Robert Redford Says: Michelle And Barack Obama Should Get Five Years In Prison. Do You Support Him ?



NEWS

Cowdy Was Right! Comey lied under oath! Bombshell proof emerges ...



NEWS

Bill Clinton Health Crisis-Family Gathering In Little Rock



NEWS

It Just Happened To Barron Trump Again



NEWS

FEMA Investigator's Shock 9/11 Claim: 'Vault Contents Emptied Before Attack... They Knew It Was Going To Happen'

FEATURED NEWS

Type search term and press enter



BREAKING NEWS

Two American Man Beats Muslim Refugee To Death For Raping 13 Years Old Girl. Do You Support This ?

Two American Beats Muslim Refugee To Death For Raping 13 Years Old Girl. Do You Support This ? A Texas father who...



BREAKING NEWS

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Just Unleashed a BOMBHELL on Fake News Media [VIDEO]

Sarah Huckabee Sanders went on ABC's "This Week"

MOST POPULAR



NEWS

JUT IN: KATHY GRIFFIN LEAVING U.S FOR FOUR YEARS BECAUSE OF TRUMP PRESIDENCY. DO YOU SUPPORT THIS?



NEWS

Chelsea Handler: 'Trump Could Murder A Baby' And Supporters Would Defend Him. Here's Why That's Awkward As Hell.



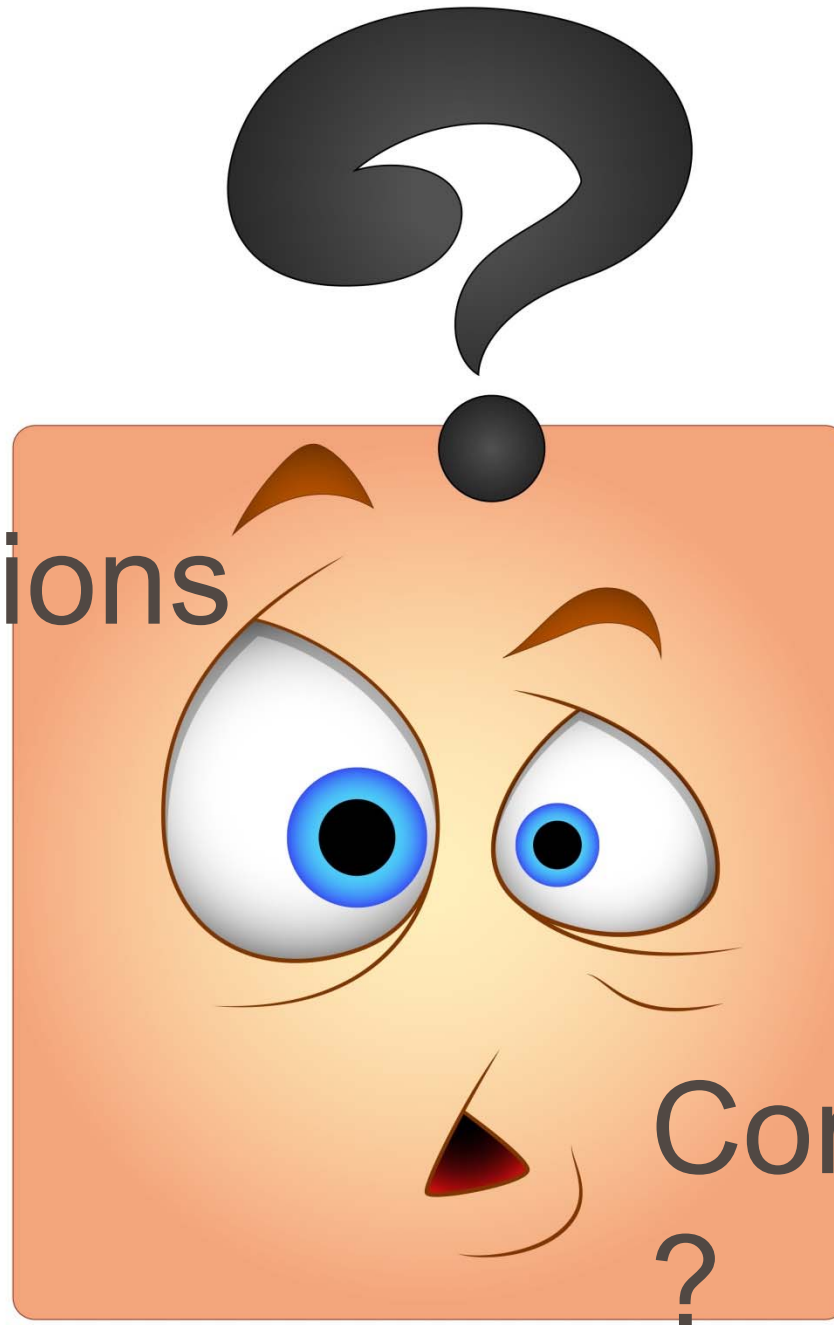
CONSPIRACY

Osiris, the First Messiah: Was Jesus

Additional Sources

- Logical Fallacies owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/659/03/
- Defining Critical Thinking
www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766
- Fake News in the Workplace www.forbes.com/sites/markmurphy/2017/07/30/fake-news-has-officially-infected-the-workplace-and-its-bad/#17caee93ca3b
- And Survey Results
www.leadershipiq.com/blogs/leadershipiq/study-fake-news-hits-the-workplace
- Facebook Bubble: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/nov/16/facebook-bias-bubble-us-election-conservative-liberal-news-feed>

Questions
?



Comments
?

Examples



**The Ominous Self Fulfilling Death Sentence of
Janet Reno July 21 1938 – Nov 7 2016**

**“Donald Trump
will never be
President in my
lifetime”
– Janet Reno**

**...she was right, now that she's dead,
Trump will be the President!**

Source: Internet meme

Kansas Policy Institute

- Vision: We envision every Kansan having the opportunities provided through personal freedom to achieve prosperity and overall well-being, and the State of Kansas being a model of economic freedom and student-focused education to be emulated across the country
- Mission: Kansas Policy Institute is an independent think tank guided by the constitutional principles of limited government and personal freedom. We specialize in student-focused education and tax and fiscal policy at the state and local level, empowering citizens, legislators, and other government officials with objective research and creative ideas to promote a low-tax, pro-growth environment that preserves the ability of governments to provide high quality services.

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Underlining added by the presenter.

Fact or Opinion or Mixed?

Now Trump is saying that police should rough people up and "not be too nice." Good grief. Must he say the wrong thing every single time? Doesn't he understand that we have a bit of a problem with police shootings and brutality? Police have an incredibly difficult job. Don't give them advice that will hurt innocents and get the police in trouble. Almost as bad were the police who cheered the suggestion. That certainly won't reassure those worried about interacting with police. Any encounter with Trump ends up making both Trump and the other person look worse, and the social fabric gets a little more frayed every time he opens his mouth.



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